

BROWNHILLS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

Medical Officer of Health

Chief Public Health Inspector

Public Health Services

1959

STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. CARL BURNS, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.P.H. (until September, 1959).

Dr. G. CREMER, L.R.C.P.&S.I., L.M., D.C.H., D.P.H. (from February, 1960).

Chief Public Health Inspector :

JOHN WILSON, D.P.A. (Lond.), M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.,
A.M.I.P.H.E.

Certificate of R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Certificate of R.S.I. as Smoke Inspector.

Certificate of R.S.I. in Sanitary Science as applied to
Buildings and Public Works.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

K. BLOWER, M.P.H.I.A.

G. CROWE, M.P.H.I.A., A.R.S.H.

Chief Clerk :

E. MARKLEW.

Assistant Clerk :

M. JONES.

Pupil Public Health Inspector :

D. PICKERING.

Handyman :

S. WRIGHT.

BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1959

Health Department,
Coombe House,
Brownhills.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of Brownhills Urban District for the year 1959.

The health of the district was, on the whole, satisfactory. It is most gratifying to report that the infant mortality rate again showed a downward trend, and was the second lowest figure on record.

No case of poliomyelitis occurred in 1959. This was fortunate, but should not give rise to complacency as no one knows when or where this disease may break out. A high degree of protection against the disease can now be acquired by vaccination, and it is therefore imperative that parents should avail of this service for their children. The service is also available to adults under forty and to pregnant women.

There was an outbreak of dysentery in the district which was fairly widespread throughout the county. Insistence on high standards of hygiene in food premises and catering establishments is of paramount importance if this disease is to be brought under control.

Sixty-eight cases of whooping cough were notified as against eight in 1958. Fortunately there were no deaths, but parents should see to it that their children are immunised early in life.

The general pattern of deaths from all causes remained largely unchanged, although there was a slight fall in the standard death rate and an increase in the number of deaths certified as caused by cancer, particularly cancer of the lung. Of the 54 deaths attributed to cancer, 16 were due to cancer of the lung and bronchus.

Heart disease continued to head the list of the principal causes of death, followed by malignant neoplasms. There is a wide field for research into the epidemiology of these great killers.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee and to the Clerk for the interest they have shown in the work of this department, and to the Chief Public Health Inspector and members of the staff for their willing and whole-hearted co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. CREMER,

Medical Officer of Health.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

The Brownhills Urban District is in the southern half of the County of Staffordshire on the fringe of the Birmingham conurbation.

The altitude of the district varies from 420 feet to 600 feet above sea level.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Mining still plays a leading, but declining, part in the employment pattern of the district, but this decline continues to be offset by the growth of new industries introduced into the district by the Council's foresight in the past, to the great benefit of the community.

AREA AND RATEABLE VALUE.

The area of the district is 6,307 acres. The rateable value is £180,915. The sum represented by a penny rate is £690.

POPULATION.

The Registrar General's figure for the estimated population is 24,570 (mid-year). The provisional population according to the 1951 census 21,482, which showed an increase of 3,114 over the 1931 census. The 1951 census showed that there were 10,759 males and 10,723 females. The density of population is 3.8 per acre.

HOUSING.

The following is a summary of houses built during 1959 :—

By private enterprise	..	..	..	189
Permanent houses by the local authority	..	..	..	93
By local authority for sale to the public	..	..	..	41

There has been a substantial decrease in the number of houses built by the Council during the year, but it is planned to step-up the building rate of Council houses during 1960.

During the year 41 houses were erected by the Direct Labour Department of the Council for sale to the public. These sales were restricted to residents of the district.

BIRTHS, 1959

Live Births :—

			Male		Female		Total
Legitimate	..	..	238	..	233	..	471
Illegitimate	..	..	10	..	12	..	22
Total							493

The number of illegitimate live births was 4.4% of the total live births.

Still Births :—

			Male		Female		Total
Legitimate	..	..	7	..	7	..	14
Illegitimate	..	..	—	..	1	..	1
Total							15

The number of live births gives a birth rate of 20.06 per thousand of the population. The area comparability factor for births is 0.94 and this gives a corrected birth rate of 18.85.

Still births numbered 15. This gives a still birth rate of 0.61 per thousand of the population, or a still birth rate of 29.52 per thousand total births (live and still). The total live and still births was 508.

DEATHS, 1959

Deaths numbered 250. 131 males and 119 females.

This gives a crude death rate of 10.17 per thousand of the population and a standard rate of 14.13 per thousand (the area comparability factor is 1.39).

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	..	Nil
Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..	Nil

PERINATAL MORTALITY.

Total still births and deaths under 1 week of age	..	22
Mortality rate per 1,000 total live and still births	..	43.30

DEATHS, 1959.

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	1	4
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	2	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	14	2	16
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	6	6
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	15	27
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1	1
Diabetes	2	4	6
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	15	26
Coronary disease, angina	15	11	26
Hypertension with heart disease	—	4	4
Other heart disease	17	33	50
Other circulatory disease	—	2	2
Influenza	3	4	7
Pneumonia	6	3	9
Bronchitis	11	4	15
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	7	—	7
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	5	20
Motor Vehicle accidents	—	—	—
All other accidents	6	2	8
Suicide	2	1	3
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
All causes	131	119	250

The death rate (per thousand of the population) for Tuberculosis is 0.16, for Influenza 0.28, for Pneumonia 0.36 and Bronchitis 0.61.

DEATHS—AGE DISTRIBUTION.

Under 1 yr.	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70 & over	Total
9	—	1	2	1	2	9	16	30	55	125	250

72% of the deaths occurred in persons over 60 years.
28% were under 60 years.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Disease	Under 1 week	1 week to 1 month	Months							Total
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-9	9-12	
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Asphyxia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Heart failure	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Anoxia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Total ..										9

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under one year of age	9
Infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births	18.25
There was one illegitimate death recorded.	
Legitimate Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	16.98
Illegitimate Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	45.00

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	7
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	14.19

EARLY NEO-MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under one week of age	7
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	14.19

INFANT MORTALITY RATE FOR THE LAST TWELVE YEARS.

(Rates per 1,000 live births).

Year	Number	Rate
1948 ..	16 ..	40.7
1949 ..	9 ..	21.9
1950 ..	17 ..	43.7
1951 ..	9 ..	27.8
1952 ..	10 ..	29.7
1953 ..	12 ..	33.1
1954 ..	11 ..	30.4
1955 ..	5 ..	15.1
1956 ..	14 ..	37.2
1957 ..	15 ..	35.0
1958 ..	17 ..	32.6
1959 ..	9 ..	18.25

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70 and over	Total
Measles	17	134	78	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	231
Whooping Cough	3	37	24	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	68
Scarlet Fever	—	15	17	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	37
Pneumonia	—	2	1	2	1	—	—	1	5	3	1	16
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	2	5
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	4	25	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	34
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The case rates per thousand of the population in respect of certain infectious diseases are as follows :—

Meningococcal Infection	..	..	..	..	0.00
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	1.04
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	2.76
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	0.22
Measles	..	..	..	..	9.40
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	0.65
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polio-encephalitis)	..	..	..	..	0.00
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	0.04
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	1.38

TUBERCULOSIS.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS IN 1959			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 „	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 „	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 „	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 30 „	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
30 to 40 „	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
40 to 50 „	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
50 to 60 „	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
60 to 70 „	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
70 and over	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total	12	9	—	—	3	1	—	—

The following table shows the number of cases remaining on the register at the end of each year :—

		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
1952	..	71	.. 74	18	.. 27	.. 190
1953	..	81	.. 87	14	.. 23	.. 205
1954	..	93	.. 96	15	.. 24	.. 228
1955	..	92	.. 87	17	.. 23	.. 219
1956	..	97	.. 92	19	.. 23	.. 231
1957	..	105	.. 101	18	.. 23	.. 247
1958	..	121	.. 100	17	.. 27	.. 265
1959	..	127	.. 107	19	.. 26	.. 279

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis on the register continues to increase, longer survival of these cases under modern treatment being responsible for this.

The death rate from the disease remains low although there was an increase, temporary it is hoped, in the number if new cases notified.

The Council's policy of granting priority rehousing to these cases where necessary plays an important part in the prevention of the disease.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Welfare, Maternity, School Health and Tuberculosis after-care services are under the control of the County Council. Within the general ambit of these services the appropriate clinics are held at places suitably accessible for the district.

The Home Help, Home Nursing and Ambulance services are also provided by the County Council.

HOSPITALS.

General : Walsall General and Walsall Manor Hospitals.

Maternity : There is one private maternity home situated in the area. The district is mostly served by Lichfield and Walsall Maternity Hospitals and Ivy House Hospital, Cannock.

X-ray facilities : At Hospitals and Mass Radiography unit, Ambulance Station, Walsall.

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Stafford branch of the Public Health Laboratory Services.

BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
Coombe House,
Brownhills.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1959.

*To the Chairman and members of
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

When this report is placed before you I shall have taken up another appointment. May I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere appreciation of the full and interested co-operation which has always been extended to my Department. The Council have achieved much of which it can be justly proud, and its efforts in the sphere of public health will compare favourably with any authority in the country. No human authority is perfect, the frailties of man are well known, but within those limitations Brownhills Urban District Council have an enviable record.

Economy is a much misused word, and in local government as in industry, it needs to be coupled with vision and progress. High Street, Brownhills and Chasewater are but two examples of where such a marriage has been successful in the interests of the people. My department has been proud to play its small part in these projects.

PART II—STAFF.

The establishment is two additional public health inspectors, and although on paper this has been maintained, illnesses have reduced effectiveness. One from three is $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ cut in work even though such absence cannot be avoided.

The district continues to grow, and with the increase in work due to the heavy slum clearance programme, meat inspection, mining subsidence, and smoke control area work, a further increase in the number of public health inspectors may soon be required if a proper balance in this important preventative work is to be maintained.

PART III—WATER SUPPLY.

The public water supply is controlled by the South Staffordshire Water Works Company. There have been no cases of shortage of supply and the quality has been maintained.

Many of the Company's mains run through areas of the district affected by mining subsidence, and although the Council are not

made aware of the repair works carried out, there is no doubt that the Company must maintain a constant vigilance. This Department took 182 samples from house taps, so that the Council in its turn, could be sure that the water supply was pure and wholesome.

R. H. Taylor, Esq., the Engineer-in-Chief of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company has supplied the following information :—

- “ 1. The supply to the area is satisfactory in quality and quantity.
2. The supply to the Urban District of Brownhills is afforded from pumping stations outside the boundary of the Authority. All the waters as pumped are examined at regular intervals both bacteriologically and chemically. Bacteriological samples are also examined of the raw waters where treatment is practised.

During 1959 routine samples were examined from the Municipal Buildings at Brownhills, from High Street, Clayhanger and from the Waterman's house, Norton Canes. 19 samples from Brownhills and 14 from Norton Canes were satisfactory. Of the 21 samples from Clayhanger 18 were free from coliform bacteria but none confirmed Bact. coli.

96 samples were examined from the Norton Canes area, 91 of which were free from coliform bacteria, one only confirmed Bact. coli. The feed to the district was examined at Chapel Street where all samples were satisfactory. 68 samples were examined from the Coppice Road—Camden Street area of Walsall Wood of which 52 were free from coliform bacteria, one only confirming Bact. coli.

The average chemical results for 1959 of the tap samples from the Waterman's house, Norton Canes and Municipal Buildings, Brownhills, were :—

	Norton Canes					Brownhills			
pH	7.7		..	..	7.4	
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	81	parts per million	..	..	118.0	
Chlorides (Cl)	15.8	..	..	..	28.6	
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	..	Trace	..	Trace	..	..	..	Trace	
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	..	Trace	..	Trace	..	..	..	Trace	
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	..	3.2	..	..	..	..	..	7.0	
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C)	..	.12	..	..	..	..	..	.12	
Temporary Hardness	..	75.0	..	..	..	..	..	114.0	
Permanent Hardness	..	47.0	..	..	..	..	..	122.0	
Total Hardness	..	122.0	..	..	..	..	..	236.0	
Iron (Fe)	..	.01	..	..	..	..	..	.01	
Manganese (Mn)	..	Nil	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	
Zinc (Zn)	..	Nil	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	
Poisonous Metals (Cu and Pb)	..	Nil	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	
Free Cl	..	Trace	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	

3. The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, no lead being found in any samples examined.
4. Sterilisation of waters is carried out where possible at the pumping stations as a precautionary measure. Special

apparatus and staff are available in the event of contamination. Chlorination on site is practised, following burst mains, etc., laying of new mains, and emptying reservoirs. New mains etc., are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

5. Number of dwelling houses supplied from public water mains :—

(a) direct to the houses	..	..	..	..	7,686
(b) by means of standpipes	..	..	..	..	40
					<hr/> 7,726 <hr/>

The population is estimated by the Company at 3.75 persons per house."

PART IV—SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

By a combination of work under the headings slum clearance, improvement grants and Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the substitution of water closets for out-dated sanitary conveniences has steadily proceeded so that there are only 41 pail closets and 23 privies in use. The majority of these are situate in the Norton Canes ward. There are a number of houses on the fringe of the development, where the provision of a sewer would involve a pumping station, and I am of the opinion this would be a justifiable cost. These houses, particularly those in Hednesford Road, Norton Canes, in the main have a 30 years life, and to continue with cess-pools and septic tanks in the year 1960 appears to be perpetuating a source of trouble and in some cases a nuisance.

Temporary closets at Chasewater have caused some concern but Council and officials are agreed that the order shall be full speed ahead with permanent modern conveniences.

TABLE I—SEWER AVAILABLE.

District	Pails		Privies	
	To be converted	For H.A. action	To be converted	For H.A. action
Norton Canes (including Little Wyrley)	—	1	—	1
Brownhills West	—	—	—	—
Walsall Wood	—	—	—	—
Shelfield and High Heath	—	—	—	—
Brownhills	—	1	—	—
Totals ..	—	2	—	1

TABLE II—SEWER NOT AVAILABLE.

District	Pails	Privies
Norton Canes (including Little Wyrley)	27	15
Brownhills West	7	3
Walsall Wood	5	2
Shelfield and High Heath	—	1
Brownhills	—	1
Totals ..	39	22

PART V—SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

- (1) Brownhills, Brownhills West, Clayhanger, Sandhills and Walsall Wood are sewered to the Green Lane Works, Walsall Wood. Over the last 10 years work has been systematically carried out with a view to modernisation and to the rectification of damage caused by mining subsidence. The new trunk sewers now in course of construction avoid the subsidence areas and should ensure that sewage reaches the works. The brook receiving the effluent has no great volume of flow and it is, therefore, essential that the effluent from the works reaches a high standard of purity.

Regular samples are taken of the effluent, and the brook course, above and below the point of discharge. Copies of the results are forwarded to the Engineer and Surveyor. Unfortunately these sample results are only an indication of the unsatisfactory state one may expect to find the brook in, further down the course. Tenants of houses in the Fordbrook Lane area have complained bitterly of the smell from the mud deposited on the banks of the stream. This mud has been deposited over a considerable length of time and has as its source, unsatisfactory effluents from the Walsall Wood sewage works and a sewer overflow from the area of Aldridge Urban District Council. The banks have been sprayed to keep down the incidence of flies, and some cleaning out work has helped to sustain the rate of flow. More drastic measures, such as the elimination of the meanders, are now to be undertaken. It is essential that the works effluent and the sewer overflow also receive attention.

- (2) Norton Canes has its own sewerage system, and disposal works constructed about 20 years ago. If reference is made to the tables shown under Part IV of this report it will be seen that 44 houses in the Norton Canes ward are without water closets.

Norton Road, Heath Hayes (10 houses), the end of Hednesford Road, Norton Canes (12 houses), and Butts Lane, Norton Canes (5 houses), are the main groups of houses without a public sewer.

- (3) The Shelfield and High Heath areas are sewered to the Goscote works operated by the Goscote Joint Board. The Council make a contribution towards the cost.
- (4) Watling Street, Brownhills, and the recent development in this area are sewered to a disposal plant operated by Lichfield Rural District Council. By far the greater volume of flow received at the works comes from this Urban District.
- (5) A colliery, cafe and three houses at Heath Hayes are sewered to a system controlled by Cannock Urban District Council.

PART VI—REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The collection and disposal of refuse is controlled by the Engineer and Surveyor. Complaints received in the Health Department are transferred to that office for attention.

The disposal of refuse is by tipping. My comments of previous years still apply and so I quote from my report for 1958, "An improvement is urgently called for in this part of the service, and it is certain that the Council will have to budget for an increase in expenditure in this work. The poor condition of the tips is a long-standing problem which has not improved with time."

From a public health point of view a weekly collection should be the minimum to be aimed at.

The dustbin supply service operated by the Health Department has issued 449 bins during the year.

PART VII

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Total Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,044
Complaints received	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	237
Houses inspected—Public Health Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,309
—Housing Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	361
—Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
—Verminous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	234
—Improvement Grants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	74
—Subsidence Damage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
—Certificate of Disrepair	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	77
Caravans	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	233
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	166
Fish Fryers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	530
Meat Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	671
Other Food Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
Dustbins	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	217
New Dustbins delivered	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	449
Ashpits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Refuse Tips	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47
Water Closets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	135
Pails	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Privies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cesspools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Drains—new and/or tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
—existing and/or defective	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	149
—cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	110
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	387
Keeping of animals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Clean Air	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	130
Petroleum Storage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	171
Infectious Disease Enquiries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	208
Disinfections and Disinfestations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	113
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	394
Samples—water, bacteriological	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	182
—water, chemical	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
—ice-cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
—faeces	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	261

NOTICES SERVED

Informal Notices brought forward from 1958	..	..	..	..	40
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	73
Informal Notices complied with	..	..	..	..	61
Informal Notices carried forward to 1960	..	..	..	..	52

FOOD HYGIENE

Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	40
Notices complied with	..	..	..	..	..	28

STATUTORY NOTICES.

TABLE III

	Brought forward from 1958	Served	Complied with	Carried forward to 1960
Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936	10	7	6	11
Section 45, Public Health Act, 1936	1	1	1	1
Section 47, Public Health Act, 1936	2	5	4	3
Sections 92, 93, Public Health Act, 1936	21	12	14	19
Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	2	—	—	2
Totals	36	25	25	36

PART VIII—HOUSING.

The Council have pursued their policy of dealing with houses in the slum clearance category as approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. The agreed programme was 135 houses per year, but in 1958, only 74 houses were dealt with and last year 62 houses. It is necessary for the number of confirmed clearance orders to be in advance of the house building programme as houses cannot be kept waiting for families.

A comparison between the number of houses dealt with in accordance with the programme during the year (62 houses) and the number of Council houses built (91 including 29 Aged People's Dwellings) confirms my forecast of 1958 that the programme has been slowed down considerably. This fluctuation in the number of houses completed makes it most difficult for the Department, and unsettling for the people. The latter being more important, as I can well imagine the effect on a family living in a "condemned" house without any definite signs of a new house forthcoming. Clearance area procedure involves a considerable amount of work before Ministry confirmation is received; house building involves a great deal of preparatory work before a brick is laid. Therefore, it is essential that the two be geared to a steady rate of production and that rates should be related to the approved programme!

Overspill agreements have operated with the County Boroughs of Walsall and Birmingham.

Individual Unfit Houses.

The Council made Demolition Orders or Closing Orders in respect of the following 39 houses.

- 31, Hednesford Road, Brownhills (Closing Order).
- 3, Vigo Road, Walsall Wood.
- 59, Friezland Lane, Brownhills.
- 38, Pelsall Road, Brownhills (Closing Order).
- 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, Field Lane, High Heath.

66, High Street, Walsall Wood.
 28, 30, 32, 34, Canal Side, Hall Lane, Walsall Wood.
 29A, Boatman's Lane, Walsall Wood.
 7, 9, Fordbrook Lane, High Heath.
 75, 77, 79, Coronation Road, High Heath.
 20, Queen Street, Walsall Wood.
 181, Watling Street, Brownhills (Closing Order).
 250, Hednesford Road, Norton Canes.
 54, Norton Road, Pelsall.
 2, Bridge Street, Clayhanger.
 138, Brownhills Road, Norton Canes.
 4, 6, Lichfield Road, Walsall Wood.
 98, 100, Lindon Road, Brownhills.
 103, Lichfield Road, Walsall Wood.
 Caravan, Rear of 92, Norton East Road, Norton Canes.
 12, 14, Bridge Street, Clayhanger.
 19, Brownhills Road, Brownhills (Closing Order).
 20, Lindon Road, Brownhills (Closing Order).
 Caravan, Rear of 150, Pelsall Road, Brownhills.

Clearance Areas.

23 houses were dealt with by the Clearance Area procedure.

Clearance Area No. 41 :

40-46, Mill Road,
 High Heath. Clearance Order.

Clearance Area No. 42 :

93-99, Brookland Road,
 Walsall Wood. Clearance Order.

Clearance Area No. 43 :

18-28, 40, 42, Pier Street,
 Brownhills. Compulsory Purchase Order
 (plus adjoining land).

Clearance Area No. 44 :

34-46, Pelsall Road,
 Brownhills. Clearance Order.

The following is an analysis of the above work under the Housing Acts, along with the repair work carried out under the Public Health Act :—

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :

- | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|--|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| (1) | (a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 135 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for that purpose | .. | | | | | 1,670 |
| (2) | | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 62 |

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	61
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

(a) Proceedings under Section 9 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :	—
(a) by Owners	—
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	—

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	73
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by Owners	25
(b) by Local Authority in default by Owners	—
(c) Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957 :	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	34
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	27
(d) Number of Closing Orders made under Section 17(1) of the Housing Act, 1957	5
(e) Undertakings accepted under Section 16 (4) of the Housing Act, 1957	—
(f) Procedure under Part III of the Housing Act, 1957 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses included in declared Clearance Areas	23
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of confirmed Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders	52
(3) Number of dwelling houses demolished on certificate of unfitness of Medical Officer	10

4. Rehousing from unfit property :

Families re-housed from Clearance Areas	.. ..	40
Persons re-housed from Clearance Areas	.. ..	124
Families re-housed from Demolition Orders, etc.	.. ..	14
Persons re-housed from Demolition Orders, etc.	.. ..	36
Families re-housed from houses certified unfit by Medical Officer of Health	.. .. .. .	7
Persons re-housed from houses certified unfit by Medical Officer of Health	.. .. .. .	14

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

(a) Discretionary Grants.

A further 26 applications for discretionary grants were received (Nos. 84 to 109) inclusive. Application No. 99 was refused.

The “ approved expense ” of the 25 grants approved totalled £5,228 10s., and the grant was for 50 % of the amount in each case.

(b) Standard Grants.

Two applications for standard grants were received. One was approved and one was refused.

The one approved qualified for a grant of £145. The actual amount of grant paid was £86 19s. (being 50 % of the actual cost of improvement).

Information obtained some years ago by means of a survey revealed that only 1 house in every 4 had a bathroom. This ratio will have been altered slightly by new house building, but the majority of those houses which had no bathrooms at the time of the survey are still in the same unhappy position.

The improvement grants system has helped a few people, particularly owner-occupiers, but the hard core of the people remain in houses without these modern necessities. The Association of Public Health Inspectors has advocated that a local authority be given powers to serve notices requiring bathrooms, similar to the manner in which repairs can be called for.

One must come to the conclusion that, in a modern society that can find money in millions for nuclear weapons, we should be able to find money for bathrooms for people to enjoy in the few years left before we destroy ourselves.

Certificates of Disrepair.

Three applications for certificates of disrepair were received, bringing the total under the Rent Act, 1957, to 76. Certificates were cancelled in 1 case on application of the landlord.

This means that a total of 18 certificates have been cancelled, and the remainder of the applicants are still living under conditions of disrepair, paying a reduced rent. Further, it is obviously wrong to deduce that all tenants, other than the 76 applicants, are living in property in good repair.

The conclusion one must reach is that the abundance of forms required by the Rent Act, 1957, have failed to improve the conditions under which people live, but have given owners a deserved increase in rent. Some other methods of completing the bargain must be employed.

COUNCIL HOUSES.

The Architectural section of the Engineer and Surveyor's Department has supplied the following information in respect of Council houses as at 31st December, 1959 :—

Prior to the late War :—

Act under which constructed	Bedrooms			Bungalows Old			Total
	Two	Three	Four	Prefabs	Persons	Flats	
1919	—	250	—	—	—	—	250
1923	—	154	—	—	—	—	154
1924	92	158	—	—	—	—	250
1925	102	344	30	—	6	—	482
1930	44	56	30	—	—	—	130
Totals	238	962	60	—	6	—	1,266

Post War :—

Year constructed	Bedrooms			Bungalows Old			Total
	Two	Three	Four	Prefabs	Persons	Flats	
1946	—	1	—	50	—	—	51
1947	4	36	—	—	—	—	40
1948	4	53	—	80	—	—	137
1949	2	39	—	13	8	—	62
1950	—	57	1	—	—	—	58
1951	8	48	—	—	—	—	56
1952	6	58	—	—	—	—	64
1953	10	86	1	—	—	—	97
1954	18	111	1	—	—	—	130
1955	30	175	—	—	—	8	213
1956	26	174	—	—	18	—	218
1957	38	193	—	—	85	36	352
1958	60	126	—	—	67	1	254
1959	18	44	—	—	29	—	91
Totals	224	1,201	3	143	207	45	1,823

PART IX—FOOD HYGIENE.

The demands of clean air and slum clearance must not be allowed to interfere with the time spent on food hygiene work. In local government there is always a tendency to economise on those services which are devoid of showmanship—doesn't public health itself often suffer for the sake of the house, road, and bridge builder—and food hygiene must not similarly be allowed to suffer within its own sphere of public health.

The best encouragement came to poliomyelitis injection work when a famous footballer died, a few cases of diphtheria stimulate the interest in immunisation against that disease. We don't want cases of food poisoning, and much work is devoted to that end, so let us not be a party to any diminishment of effort in food hygiene. I wonder who would be the biggest critics if cases did occur—probably the advocates of a restriction in public health staff.

Many shops have shown that they believe in clean food, and of their own initiative they have progressed in the right direction. Quite a number seek help, and guidance, and like to discuss their proposals before spending their capital on new and often untried ideas. We welcome this co-operation and would make it known that the public health inspector is one of the first to hear of new developments, and that he can frequently be of assistance to food traders.

A few shop premises are not up to standard, and a few do not present an attractive appearance due to lack of paint or lack of storage space.

Types of Food Premises.

Bakehouses	..	..	..	1
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	25
Wholesale Grocers	..	..	..	1
Ice Cream Sales	..	..	..	110
Ice Cream Manufacturer	..	..	..	1
Fish Fryers	..	..	..	10
General Stores	..	..	..	187
Catering Establishments	..	..	..	11
Public Houses	..	..	..	34
Total	..	..	..	380

Ice Cream.

110 shops are registered for the sale of ice cream and there is one business registered for the manufacture of ice cream by a hot mix process.

Meat Inspection.

Seven private slaughterhouses hold current licences, but only four are in use. The amount of killing which takes place outside normal office hours means that overtime has been necessary to maintain a 100 per cent. meat inspection service. The ideal inspection service is for all animals to be subject to ante-mortem inspection followed by a post-mortem inspection at the time of slaughter. Many conditions alter as times goes by after slaughter, and difficulties arise in making a correct diagnosis.

Other Food Inspected.

The following items of food have been surrendered :—

14 tins of Cooked Ham	...	...	191 lbs.	14 ozs.
12 tins of Corned Beef	...	...	70 lbs.	
165 tins of Various Meats	...	...	227 lbs.	4 ozs.
135 tins of Various Fruit	...	...	184 lbs.	1 oz.
57 tins of Evaporated Milk	...	...	56 lbs.	7 ozs.
1 box of Frozen Rabbit	...	...	60 lbs.	
37 tins of Peas	...	...	29 lbs.	4 ozs.
6 tins of Vegetables	...	...	4 lbs.	8 ozs.
5 tins of Pilchards	...	...	1 lb.	14 ozs.
4 tins of Broth	...	...	3 lbs.	
13 tins of Cream	...	...	4 lbs.	14 ozs.
14 tins of Neseafe	...	...	1 lb.	7 ozs.
26 tins of Bourn-vita	...	...	7 lbs.	4 ozs.
8 tins of Coeoa	...	...	8 lbs.	
12 tins of Vita-cup	...	...	3 lbs.	
48 packets of Salted Nuts	...	...	2 lbs.	5 ozs.
29 packets of Stoned Raisins	...	...	14 lbs.	8 ozs.
3 tins of Groats	...	...	1 lb.	8 ozs.
24 tins of Barley Water Crystals	...	...	6 lbs.	
2 tins of Creamed Rice	...	...	2 lbs.	
3 tins of Crab Spread	...	...		6 ozs.
2 tins of Chieken Spread	...	...		8 ozs.
1 tin of Pineapple	...	...	1 lb.	
2 boxes of Fish	...	...	74 lbs.	
Bacon	...	...	14 lbs.	
Total			7 ewt. 1 qr. 27 lbs.	0 ozs.

TABLE IV
Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses	Goats
Number killed	496	231	13	2,472	1,041	—	—
Number inspected	496	231	13	2,472	1,041	—	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>							
Whole carcases condemned	—	1	1	3	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	69	19	1	20	38	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	13.9%	8.6%	15.3%	0.9%	3.6%	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>							
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	21	11	—	—	27	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.2%	4.7%	—	—	2.6%	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

WEIGHT OF MEAT CONDEMNED :—

Carcase Meat	Tuberculosis			Other than T.B.		
Offal	2 cwt.	3qrs.	18 lbs.	6 cwt.	3 qrs.	8 lbs.
	15 cwt.	0qrs.	5 lbs.	16 cwt.	2 qrs.	19 lbs.

Diseased meat is collected by the Department van and taken to a firm who manufacture fertilizers.

Sampling of Food and Drugs.

The Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures for the Staffordshire County Council has supplied the following details of samples taken by his Department :—

Details of Samples procured during 1959 :—

General Food and Drugs.

Baked Beans with Pork	Meat Paste, Liver and Bacon
Beef Steak and Gravy, 2	Meat Paste, Ham
Beef Sausage	Mixed Fruit Jam, 2
Bemax Wheat Germ	Mint in Vinegar
Bicarbonate of Soda	Mincemeat
Bilberries	Minced Turkey
Bisurated Magnesia	Milk of Magnesia
Blackberries in Syrup	Mixed Dried Fruit
Broad Beans	Mustard
Bronchial Mixture	Orchard Fruits
Butter, 2	Orange Drink
Butter Lemon Curd	Onion Salt
Cherries in Syrup	Pork Sausago, 9
Choc. Covered Sponge	Pilchards in Tomato
Chopped Chicken	Pickled Beetroot
Chopped Pork	Peeled Shrimps
Condensed Milk	Peeled Tomatoes
Cod Roe	Pears in Syrup
Corned Beef, 2	Processed Peas, 2
Cough Syrup	Pure Honey
Creamed Chicken Soup	Raspberry Jam
Cut Mixed Peel	Red Cabbage
Dairy Cream, 2	Rhubarb in Syrup
Delph Cream Biscuits	Rice Pudding, 2
Desicated Coconut	Sage and Onion Stuffing.
Diced Pears in Syrup	Sandwich Spread
Fried Hamburgers	Salted Peanuts
Fruit Salad in Syrup	Semolina
Glacé Cherries	Self-Raising Flour
Golden Raising Powder	Sherbert Suckers
Ground Rice	Spiced Vinegar
Gravy Browning	Stewed Steak, 3
Hamburgers with Gravy	Stoned Dates
Ice Cream, 3	Strawberry Drink Powder
Indian Brandee	Sultanas
Indigestion Tablets	Sweetened Sponge Mix
Instant Piping	Sweetened Cake Flour
Jam Sandwich Mix	Sugar, 2
Junior Rolls	Spirits, 9
Lard, 3	Table Jelly
Lemon Cream	Tea, 5
Lemon Cream Biscuits	Thick Soup Mix
Liver Salt	Throat Tablets
Malt Vinegar	Tomato Sausage
Margarine	Tomato Ketchup
Suet Pudding Mix	Tomato Soup
Vinegar, 2	Zinc and Castor Oil Ointment

Total Samples 130.

Samples below standard, 9.

Details of unsatisfactory samples :—

Rice Pudding, 33 B/C—contains more rice than sugar, ingredients stated in wrong order.	Labels amended.
Beef Steak with Gravy, 40 B/F—21.6% deficient of meat.	Whole question of Tinned Meat to await report of the Food Standards Committee.
Beef Steak with Gravy, 92 B/F—20.8% deficient of meat.	ditto.
Stewed Steak, 43 B/F—Contains 79.0% of Meat, instead of 95%.	ditto.
Stewed Steak, 94 B/F—18.2% Deficient of Meat.	ditto.
Stewed Steak, 95 B/F—18.8% Deficient of Meat.	ditto.
Pork Sausage, 33 B/N—12.4% Deficient of Meat.	Manufacturer Cautioned.
Onion Salt, 35 B/N—Contains Sulphur Dioxide, which is not permitted as a preservative.	Old stock. Taken up with Manufacturers.
Pork Sausage, 78 B/N—11.3% Deficient of Meat.	Manufacturer Cautioned.

Milk Supplies.

The milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) No. 2 Order, 1954, came into force on the 1st October, 1954.

Results of samples of milk taken by the County Council are forwarded to this office for information :—

Type of Milk	Phosphatase Test	Turbidity Test	Methylene Blue Test
Pasteurised	18	—	13
Sterilised	—	17	—
T.T. Pasteurised ..	17	—	13
T.T. Sterilised	—	—	—
T.T.C.I. Pasteurised ..	12	—	9

PART X—CLEAN AIR.

One smoke control area at High Heath in respect of a new development site has been proposed, and subject to confirmation, will come into operation in 1960. The site will be Chiefly council houses and a new school. The attack on the existing properties has been delayed by a flanking move which has also resulted in no five year programme being submitted to the Ministry. Nevertheless, I have faith in the Council that even without a programme, the need for a clean air policy will be accepted and acted upon.

Perhaps if I outline a few of the arguments against clean air for Brownhills, the air might be clarified :—

(1) **“ This is a mining area and nothing we do must interfere with the prosperity and livelihood of the inhabitants.”**

Answer : (a) Old fashioned grates burning raw coal waste our precious inheritance that flesh, blood and tears have so hardly won from the earth.

Smoke control areas will use coke, gas and electricity which are all produced from coal. There is a shortage of good quality house coal, but these alternative forms of heating use a different quality of coal which is in more plentiful supply. It is, therefore, evident that there will be no reduction in demand for coal.

(b) The other half of this answer concerns miners' concessionary coal. There have been enough words written about this to wrap up each piece of coal in a separate parcel. It boils down to this—the Minister will do nothing unless the problems prove urgent and demands a solution. The people who can press for that solution are the miners through their union. They have fought other issues and here is one worthy of their all-out effort. I understand the union has this matter under consideration, and I say more power to their elbow. When you have lived all your life in a mining community ; when the man behind you and in front of you in the football and cricket team is a miner ; when the man at your elbow in the “ local ” is a miner ; when the man at your side in chapel or church is a miner ; when some of your friends lose their lives in the pit, then your sympathies are with the miner.

It should not be beyond the bounds of human ingenuity to arrange an exchange of coke for coal. Don't we, the people, own both industries ?

I believe miners' wives deserve clean air, cleaner curtains, less dust, soot and tar, as much as any other housewife.

(2) **“ Domestic chimneys are not the main cause of pollution.”**

Answer : (a) Facts and figures may be used to prove anything. Scientists may draw a wrong conclusion, but all our experts cannot be fooled all the time. The latest assessment of pollution from domestic chimneys is that more than 50 % of the total pollution is from this source. The low level of discharge of house chimneys aggravates the nuisance.

(b) It is true that Brownhills has been afflicted by two major industrial sources of pollution. One at Norton Canes from an aluminium recovery plant, where the nuisance is in the form of a white fog, particularly prevalent on humid days, and the other from just outside the district but so situate that the people of this authority see and feel the worst of the pollution. This latter is due to brick production.

In each case the Alkali Inspector is responsible as they are registered processes. These processes were transferred from local

authorities to the Alkali Inspector because of the special difficulties involved, and hence no easy and quick solution is available. The Alkali Inspector has kept me informed of the various experiments, and the efforts made, to find a solution. In addition my colleague in the adjoining authority has been most co-operative and we have discussed the brickwork problem.

Must we wait for the industry to be smokeless before we exercise the power granted us by the Clean Air Act? How much stronger would our position be if we could say—"We have done our job; now you do likewise."

(3) **"To force people to burn smokeless fuel is an interference with the liberty of the subject."**

I would be so bold as to say that every law we have interferes with the liberty of the subject, but it's for the benefit of the majority. We are compelled to stop at halt signs so as to avoid accidents, and injury to human beings, so that all may use the highways, and derive the greatest benefit. The Clean Air Act has a distinct parallel purpose.

(4) **"Diesel engines cause considerable pollution and nuisance."**

This is true, and it is concentrated in particular streets at low level. We are assured this pollution can be avoided by vehicles being properly maintained. There is a law covering this point and some police authorities prosecute offenders with marked success. Public interest can bring about an improvement in this case, and the problem can be solved.

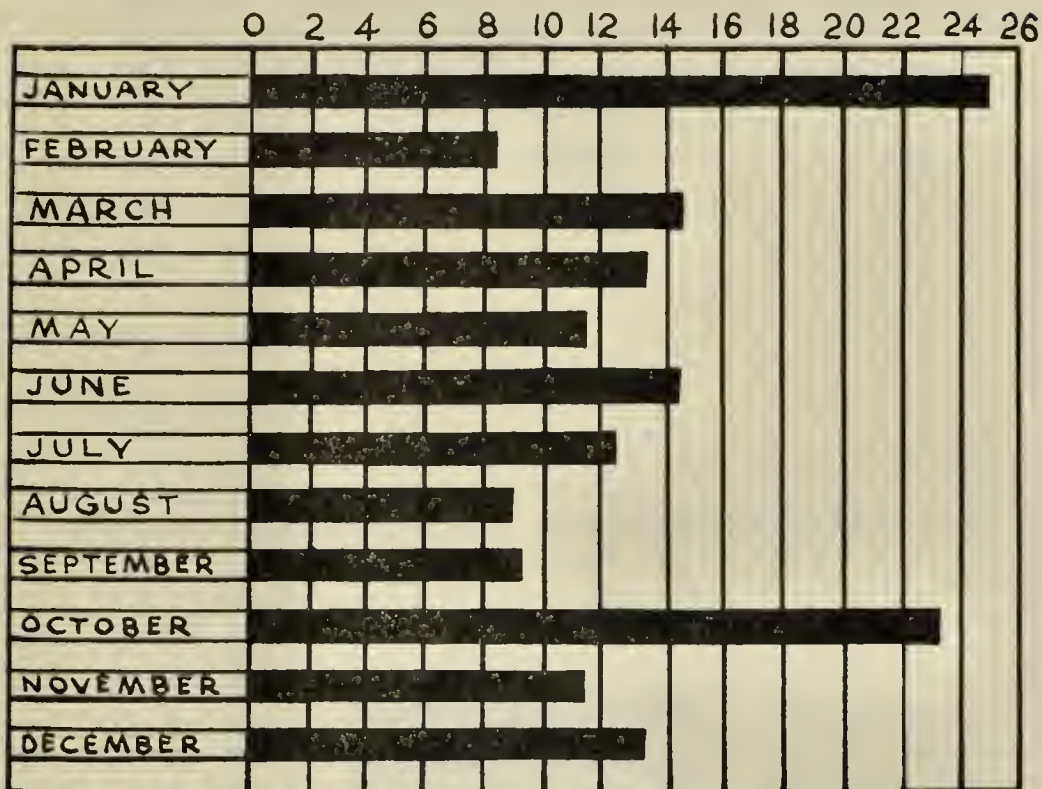
TABLE V—1959
DEPOSIT GAUGES—RECORDS OF DEPOSITS
Deposits in tons per square mile per Month.

Month	Norton Canes	Brownhills	Shelfield
January	*	14.9	36.0
February	9.7	7.6	8.6
March	13.8	13.9	16.3
April	11.9	17.0	11.7
May	10.5	13.2	11.7
June	12.8	17.0	14.0
July	10.6	11.3	15.3
August	7.3	9.4	10.5
September	9.0	7.4	11.7
October	15.0	18.1	37.0
November	10.5	9.7	15.2
December	10.1	13.2	16.7
Totals	121.2	152.7	204.7
	(11 months)		
Monthly Average	10.1	12.7	17.0

*Figures not available.

DEPOSIT GAUGES 1959 **SEASONAL INCIDENCE (Averages)**

Seasonal Average for whole of District Tons/sq. Mile per month



DISTRICT INCIDENCE (Averages)

Tons per square Mile per month

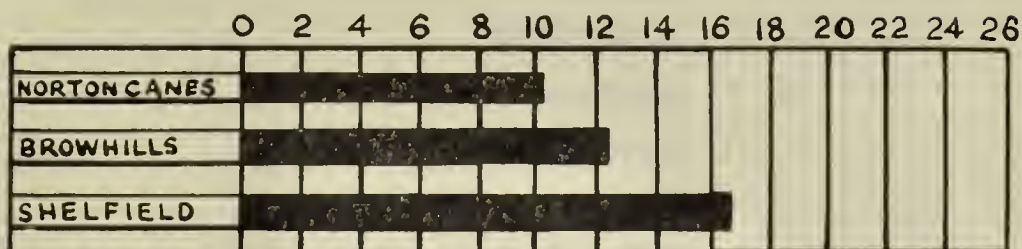
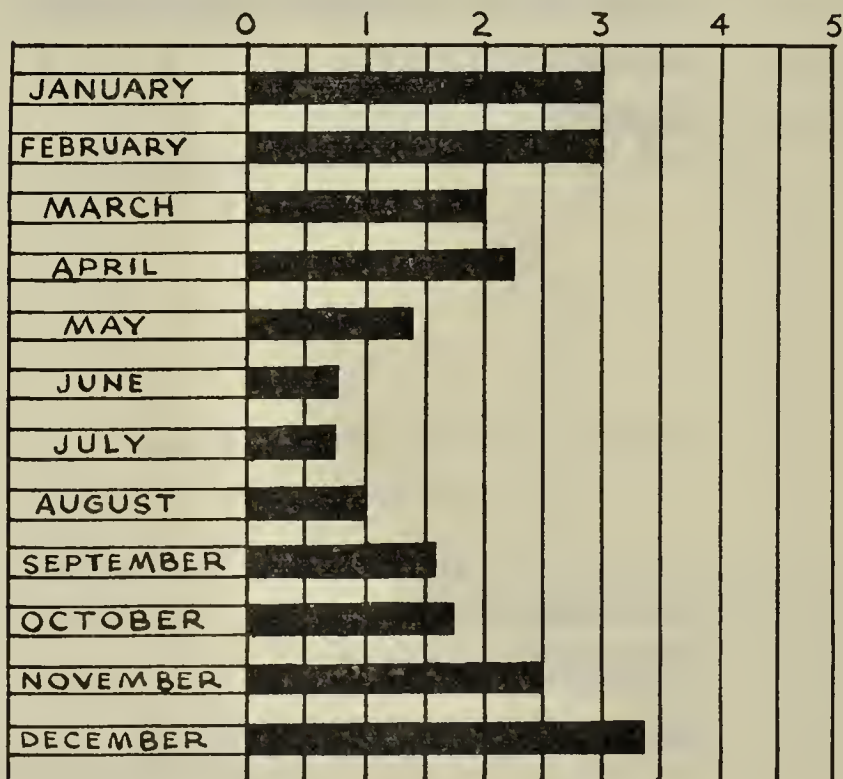


TABLE VI—1959
LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES—RECORD OF SULPHUR POLUTION
 Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected—in milligrams
 per 100 square centimetres per day.

Month	Norton Canes	Brownhills	Shelfield
January	2.2	3.7	3.2
February	2.1	3.6	3.4
March	1.5	2.3	2.3
April	1.1	2.1	3.6
May	1.5	1.4	1.4
June	0.7	0.6	0.8
July	0.5	1.0	0.8
August	0.9	1.1	0.9
September	1.2	2.0	1.7
October	1.4	2.0	1.8
November	1.5	3.4	2.6
December	3.4	3.7	2.7
Totals	18.0	26.9	25.2
Monthly Average	1.5	2.2	2.1

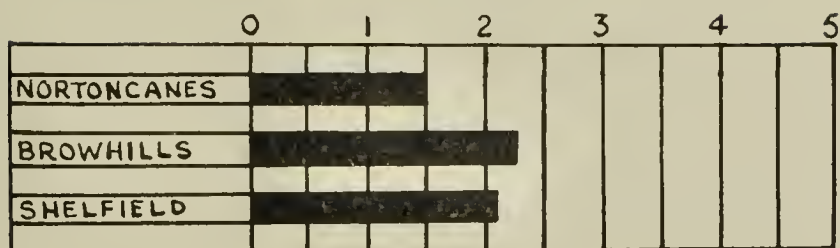
LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES 1959 (SULPHUR DIOXIDE)
SEASONAL INCIDENCE (Averages)

M/Grams/SO₃ 100 sq. cms./day



DISTRICT INCIDENCE (Averages)

M/Grams/SO₃ 100 sq. cms./day



Shops Act, 1950.

The Council are an authority under the Shops Act by reason of powers delegated by the Staffordshire County Council. Visits for the purposes of Shops Act work are frequently combined with those made under the terms of other legislation. There are a few shopkeepers who think nothing of breaking the law by selling all kinds of goods as and when they please. It is another thing to collect the necessary evidence sufficient to obtain a conviction. The 1950 Act was an endeavour to consolidate the law as it relates to shops—there is room for a drastic overhaul of the whole picture if it is still true that a law which cannot be enforced is a bad law.

Factories.

The Council have indicated their progressive outlook by developing an industrial site. Overspill industry is being received as well as overspill population. It means that whereas the main industry once was coal-mining a more varied type of employment is available. New plans are seen by the Chief Public Health Inspector before the Engineer and Surveyor submits them to the Plans Committee for approval. It is then possible to discuss heating proposals, processes which might create a nuisance and the provision of sanitary accommodation.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	80	163	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises	4	4	—	—
TOTAL	87	171	2	—

Cases in which defects were found :—

Sanitary Conveniences—						Remedied.
Insufficient	...	...	...	...	1	—
Unsuitable or Defective	...	...	...	...	1	—

Rodent Control.

The Council provides a free service for private dwellings and sewers, sewage works and refuse tips are treated at regular intervals.

Treatments have been carried out as follows :—

		Rats	Mice	Total
Local Authority's Property	..	9	—	9
Dwelling Houses	.. ..	77	18	95
Business Premises	.. ..	10	4	14
Total				118

Mortuary.

The mortuary is looked after by a part-time attendant. Considering the war-time construction the premises and equipment have been reasonably well maintained. 34 bodies were received during the year.

CONCLUSION

May I again express my thanks to the Council for their support and interest in the working of the Department, and thank the Officers of other Departments for their willing co-operation in matters of mutual interest.

Yours obediently,

JOHN WILSON.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

